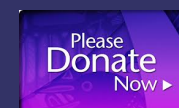



hszc.org


2013 Sept 3 - Sept 17

Please help support our temple, Dharma study & our programs.



Hartford Street Zen Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Donations are tax-deductible

NEW! Women's Sitting group

(Women only)

Sitting followed by Dharma talk then tea and cookies. Mostly Zen.

Kicks off Tues, September 3rd:
7pm-8:30pm

September Sangha e-Newsletter

Source: Zen Ritual, Studies of Zen Buddhist Theory In Practice- Abbots' Ascending the Dharma Hall

Steven Heine & Dale Wright

... Chan (J. Zen) developed certain features unique to the Chan school, which helps us to better appreciate the ways by which the tradition carved its identity as a distinct school of Buddhism and a key player in the Chinese (and more broadly East Asian) religious landscape. The same can be said of the relationship between ritual and other aspects of Chan praxis. From the Song period onward, those distinctive elements reinforced the Chan school's claim to orthodoxy and highlighted the Chan teachers' unique standing among the monastic elite. The preaching rituals thereby bolstered the religious authority of the Chan teachers and enhanced their privileged social status. But even as these public performances reaffirmed their position at the apex of ecclesiastic hierarchy, they also facilitated the communication of specific religious teachings and the articulation of distinct perspectives on issues of ultimate import.



Upcoming Events:

● **Dharma Talks** - Rev. Myo Lahey - Saturdays: Sept 7, 21, 28...
@10:15am.

● **Guest Speakers Saturdays 10:15am** - **September 14** - Ayya Santacitta of Aloka Vihara; **September 28** - Toku-ha Fukyoshi;
October 5 - Zachary Smith, Anshi Daiqi; **November 2** - Elaine Donlin
Sensei of Jodo Shinshu; **December 14** - Beata Chapman

● **Full Moon Ceremony** - Saturday, September 21, 2013 @ 11am

● **Sangha Council** - TBD.

● **Founder's Memorial** - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

● **Study Hour** The Book of Serenity, we have books to share, we read together, feel free to drop in - Thursdays @7:30pm

● **Next Board of Directors' Meeting** - Second Wednesdays of the month: September 11 @7:30pm (you're welcome to attend & observe)



Public Practice Schedule:

Monday

6:00 pm Zazen (seated meditation)
6:40 pm Chanting

Tuesday- Friday

6:00 am Zazen
6:40 am Kinhin (walking meditation)
6:50 am Zazen
7:20 am Chanting
7:40 am Soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen
6:40 pm Chanting
Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

Saturday

6:30 am Zazen
7:10 am Chanting
7:25 am Soji
8:30 am Drop-in instruction
9:25 am Zazen
10:15 am Dharma Talk
11:00 am Refreshments/Social

HIV Meditation Sitting Group

weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who

[San Francisco in the August 19th lightening storm](#)

●**For Early September:** The end of summer 2013 is upon us as quickly as the summer months arrived, they have departed. Of course in San Francisco it means we finally are having our warmer months and it has started off as of Labor Day Weekend as a beautiful warm beginning, yet our friend the fast paced fog is still visiting us pretty regularly. We hope you have all had a great summer and we look forward to the autumn months ahead.

We had a recent very nice visit from several members of the Valley Streams Sangha we hope to see again soon!

Although there are no aspens or too many trees that change leaf color to gold and reds, we are pretty fortunate to have year round mild weather and it won't be long before the drizzle and rain visits us again and does some nice cleaning of our sidewalks and streets. We have multiple new condo buildings going up at a fast rate (maybe we will get to meet some of those new residents), a new east span of the bay bridge and change just keeps marching forward. Hope you all enjoy the autumn that is coming and keep in mind Castro Street fair is just around the corner.

●**From Our Residential Practitioners:** We have had a number of visitors come and add different personalities to the HSZC mix yet are also looking forward to the more stable resident students known around HSZC for several years that will now reside in each of its bedrooms as they continue to study and deepen their experience of daily practice often with the lay outside of HSZC Sangha.

● **Words From Our Practice Leader:** Reverend Myo Denis Lahey Dec 12, 2013

Even if I could unroll for you, all of Buddha's teachings, in a single instance, that wouldn't save you. That wouldn't save me, either. This practice of Dharma study is dependent on others, and also completely individual. Do you understand? We can't do without others, and we also must manage our own effort, our own vow

wants to join us!
Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am **zazen**
11:00 am **garden socializing**

Meditation in Recovery

(Men & Women)
weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm

Women's Meditation in Recovery

(Women only)
monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction - First Thursdays

7:15 pm - 8:45 pm

Hartford Street Zen Center is a
Castro neighborhood temple & residential practice center in the Soto Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi established to support & engage the LGBTQI (Queer) Community and our allies

●Hartford Street History: HSZC Newsletter -- Summer 1996 ---

Abbotship:

Zenshin briefed us on the traditional role of abbot in Japanese Zen temples: "A nobleman or local overlord decides to build a temple as a memorial to one of his parents. He commands his retainers to build a temple whose construction is funded by himself and other family members. The heads of families among the retainers become the hereditary supporters of the temple.

"The overlord then selects an abbot (religious leader) who in turn appoints six officers, who are monks, to operate the temple; director, treasurer, guest manager, head cook, head of construction. and Ino (who leads ceremonies). These officers meet with the Abbot to figure out the monastic schedule, ceremonies, etc. The Abbot puts the official seal



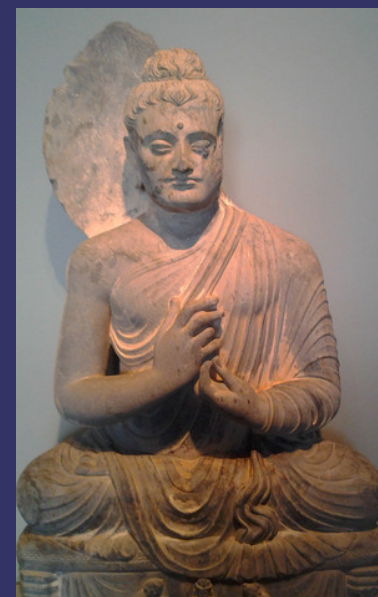
on legal papers, teaches and initiates. It's a funny system, very un-American. The Abbot names a successor before death, writes a poem, then dies.

Here in America people do whatever they can - it's the democratic tradition." It was proposed that since HSZC is such a small operation, with primarily a lay sangha, it would be more practical to have a head priest in the interim rather than an abbot. The Board can reconsider whether or not to install an abbot at some future date. In the meantime, a practice committee will be set up to operate the Zendo and maintain the meditation schedule.

"The bottom line," said Shunko, "is to encourage people to practice." The Board then explored the different gifts HSZC temple had to offer the neighborhood. Ken Ireland described HSZC as, "a neighborhood Zen temple, a funky, ragtag place with many practice opportunities for people because it's not so well-defined." Myo shared his experience from years at San Francisco Zen Center where hundreds of people pass through. "When people get a feeling for what Zen training entails - exposing our tenderest places to scrutiny - they don't always like it. For a place like HSZC, people who want that very precious thing should be able to find it, but we should also provide a way for others to practice so they can keep more distance if they wish."

●From the Garden:

The upper level gravel area work/change is progressing, the conversion



HSZC on [Facebook](#)

[HSZC.org](#)

check out our community events page for more!

from rose garden to veggie patch and continued garden efforts also keep moving forward.

●**Sangha Member Writings or Muse:** This bi-week, a little ancient text game. Name that text source (answer can be highlighted in the bottom box black text in black box to reveal the answer). Can you name this text's source? Or maybe even it's general area of origination in Asia?:

"There are three modes of disappearance of a teaching.

The decline of the attainment to a clear insight into it, of practice in accordance with it, and decline in the outward form of it. When the intellectual grasp ceases then even the man who conducts himself rightly has no clear understanding of it. By the decline of practice, promulgation of the Vinaya rules ceases and only the outward form of the religion remains. When the outward form ceases then the succession of the tradition is cut off"



Ready for "the" big commitment (Marriage) & seeking a LGBTQI, Buddhist space to start your new chapter in life? HSZC & Rev. Myo Lahey can be a part of this amazing & love filled ceremony. HSZC can house your Zen Buddhist Wedding ceremony & Rev Myo can perform weddings! Please email hszc108@yahoo.com, call us, or the best way to discuss is to stop by during our publicly open hours.

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Practice Leader, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey



Text guessing game answer: The Debate of Nagasena and King Milinda (Melinda Panha), a Gandahar region Buddhist region story of a discussion between the local king "Milinda" believed to possibly be the known historical region King Menander and his discussion with an adept Buddhist Monk, Nagasena, that in the end converts the king through a long debate or discussion on many parts of human life to Buddhism and thus he makes Buddhism his kingdom's official religion. Said to have happened about 100 BCE, originally said to be in Sanskrit, later translated to Pali. It is part of the Burmese Pali Canon and exists in Chinese text in a shorter version and a really good read found in a accessible translation here:
http://www.buddhanet.net/pdf_file/milinda.pdf

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May this newsletter find you well & filled with equanimity! __/__